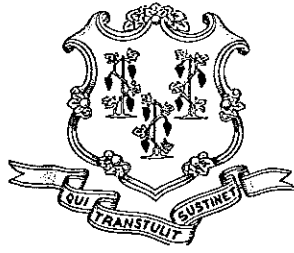


SENATOR GARY D. LEBEAU
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State of Connecticut
SENATE

DEPUTY PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Chair

Commerce Committee

Member

Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee

Legislative Management Committee

Transportation Committee

March 11, 2009

I want to thank Senator DeFronzo, Representative Guererra for holding a hearing on **HB 6650 AN ACT CONCERNING ZERO EMISSION BUSES** and **SB 1094 AN ACT CONCERNING HYDROGEN REFUELING STATIONS**.

These are both extremely important bills. The purpose of **HB 6650 AAC ZERO EMISSION BUSES** is to establish a fleet of zero emission buses in the state of Connecticut. This is significant because it builds on and consistent with the goals identified in the state's Hydrogen Roadmap, which was developed by The CT Center for Advanced Technology, the Department of Economic and Community Development and the Department of Transportation and the Connecticut Hydrogen Fuel Cell Coalition.

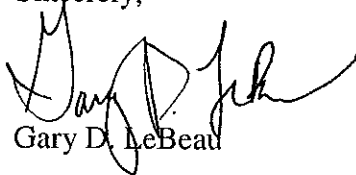
This bill would help improve environmental performance, increase energy efficiency, reduce the impact of fossil fuels and enhance economic development as well. Additionally the commercial development of hydrogen technology provides jobs and economic benefits for the state of Connecticut.

SB 1094 AAC HYDROGEN REFUELING STATIONS is an essential legislative proposal for the future of Connecticut as well. This bill would require the establishment of hydrogen refueling stations on the Merritt Parkway and other state highways, with technology principally manufactured and assembled in Connecticut in order to create jobs, reduce air pollutants and carbon emissions, and provide efficient energy resources.

The development of this proposal would improve fuel and energy efficiency and provide the necessary infrastructure to attract automobile companies to demonstrate and position hydrogen fueled vehicles for use in Connecticut. Instituting a hydrogen fueling infrastructure is cited as a goal in the Hydrogen Roadmap and this bill would accelerate the implementation of those goals established in the report. I believe these legislative proposals are going to be key components of how we as a state meet our energy and transportation needs in the future.

I recognize that we are currently in a difficult fiscal situation and the cost of both proposals may make them prohibitive. However, this does not mean they can not be funded. It is clear that the Federal stimulus package will contain dollars for new energy technologies and strategies. Both of these bills should be written to allow and encourage the use of Federal stimulus funds. I thank you for your consideration of these bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary D. LeBeau", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Gary D. LeBeau